

THE DIARY *of a* DOCTOR'S SON



By K. L. Brooks

*"God made both tears and laughter,
and both for kind purposes."*

(Leigh Hunt)

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The Diary
of a
Doctor's Son

*Put in print with the idea of making
certain people crack a smile—and then
some : : : : : : :*

By K. L. BROOKS
536 South Hope Street, Box 4
Los Angeles, Calif.

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REAR VIEW
OF THE AUTHOR

FOREWORD



The Diary of a Doctor's Son is actually based on diaries kept by the author when a lad. Every character mentioned in it is a real person, some of whom still live and delight to remind us sometimes of our boyish capers, many of which are recorded herein.

Most of the boys mentioned resided near to each other in East Main Street in the town of Norwich. The livery barns of Mr. Coe with the spacious hitching sheds, and a playhouse on the Sullivan property furnished the setting for many of the events.

The boys mentioned by nickname are Walter Coe, Carl Coe, Henry Sullivan, Cyrus Green, Louis Laeffler, Carl Gibson, Robert Boles and Walter Burr.

The diary in typewritten form has for some years furnished an hour's amusement at various

gatherings, and it is in the hope that it will be the means of cheering up some of you old grouches for an hour, that I have consented upon urgent request of friends to let the diary go into print. Certainly, if I thought it would make your sons and daughters any worse than they are, I would never print it. A few old ladies have said to me, "You must have been a **TER-RIBLE BOY!**" and so it might strike one after reading so many pranks all recorded in a bunch. But the truth of the matter is—I **WAS A GOOD BOY**—and if you will stop and reflect, you will find that you **YOURSELF** was even more of a rascal. If you don't believe it, write down a few of your capers and see how it looks.

K. L. B.

THE DIARY

OF A

DOCTOR'S SON

APR. 3—18— Father give me this direy last Crismas, and I havent wrote a word in it yet. I am sorrey I scipt all this year because the kids been rasen thunder. Me and Dutch Leffler and Shank Coe bilt a shanty in our back yard this a m. Dutch slid off the edge of the ruff and caut his pants and tore the seet rite out and scrashed his setdown bad. He didnt want to walk home with his pants toar so he ast me to let him take Pauline's tricyckle to ride home on so peeple woodent see his britches. I told him I didnt have no rite to lone it because it didnt belong to me. He walked home hanging on to his seet and sed he wood get even.

4. Dutch coodent help on the shanty this morn- ing becus he had to lay abed while his mother fixed his pants. Yap Burr came down and we naled one of Shanks fathers rubber horse blank- ets on the ruff to keep it from leaking. Shank sed it was a old one his father didnt need, still

we better keep quiet because he might get licked for taking it without asting.

5. Went to school today. Boney Coe got licked for blowing paperwods at carry nation youngs. Boney cryed and all the fellers laffed becaus his fase looked like a monkeys. Say, mister Coe has missed his best rubber laprobe and he sed it was took from his barn yesterday. He sed he bet that man Button took it—he's the feller that takes care of Coes horses and Shank told his father he bet so too because he seen it there hiself yesterday.

6. We read about Geo. Washinton in scool today. He never told a lie—but once and then he went to his dad and sed father, I cannot tell a lie—I did it with my little hachet. His father sed Geo. was a nobel boy. Well Mister coe ast Button about that lap robe today and Button sed he seen the kids a fooling with it, so Shanks dad ast Shank about it and Shank thot his dad wood do like Mr. Washington did, so he sed, father I cannot tell a lie. We have got it naled on our shanty. Then his father sed you jest step out into the wood shed and I will nale the seet of your briches. Shank sed it didnt hurt but Squash Gibsen sed he herd him holler like murder. Shank and Squash dont speek now.

We are going to take that lap robe off the ruff tomorrow.

7. Me and Dutch made up and we helped Shank take that robe off the ruff before school this a m. They is something the matter with Shank. he cant set still and when he sets down he sets down awful slow. Squash told the fellers he knew what ailed him all rite. Shank sed he is going to punch his fase tomorrow after scool. They is going to be a minstrel show in town tomorrow nite and Skiney Sullivan is going to carry a flag in the parade and git a ticket for nuthing. I stood 23 in geograpy review today.

8. all the fellers came around tonite to see that fite that Squash and Shank was going to have but Shank sed his mother told him not to fite with his scool clothes on. They are going to have it tomorrow. you outer seen the parade this noon. A feller kep a whirling a stick aroun and throwing it up in the air and caching it on the end of his nose. And the band played marching threw Georga and skiney carried a big flag and he had a yeller coat which was too big for him and a red hat jest like all the band fellers. All the kids hollered at Skiney. Yap Burr got a ticket for helping a fat man carry the drum. Father and Pauline has gone to the

entertainment tonite but I had to say in for sassing Lamfere's hird man. He told father I sassed him but I didnt.

9. Shank and Squash has made up so the fellers didnt see no fite tonite. Beany Green got licked in scool today for smoking a cornsilk segar on the scool grounds. The fellers went byckeling on west hill after scool. you can coast way down to the mill. Frog Burleson and Clif alrich got pulled in for runing into a nigger woman that was whealing a baby carrage with their bicickels. Frogs dad went down and got them out but they have got to go to perlise court in the morning. All the fellers is going over and we are glad becaus Clif and Frog woodent let us try their bicickels. I had to pologise to Lamferes hird man this morning but I didnt care becaus he give me five sents and he sed he knowed I woodent do it again and he told father I was a good kid.

10. My but Frog and Clif was skart this morning. mister Hide the perlise justice, he ast the fellers a lot of questions. The nigger woman was there and she sed yes saa I is de pussen wat was run inter by them ear skamps. Then mister Hide ast her if she was ingered and she sed her rite foot was hurt and she started to take

off her shoe and show him but he sed o thats all rite—we will take your word for that and then all the men laffed. She limped awful when she went out but Dutch sed he seen her before she come and she didnt limp any then. Their fathers had to pay 5 dollars apeece becaus Clif and Frog was on the wrong side of the road. Beans mother give the fellers a rag carpet for the shanty and we have got a better ruff on it then we had before because Yap brout over one of them tin things they set stoves on and it covered all but one little place and Squash found a tin server that jest covered it. Old man coe can have his old lap robe. Mother made me take a bath today becaus we are going to s.s. tomorrow.

11. G whiss—we had one awful time in church today. Me and aunt Clara and Paul and mother went this morning. Mr. Martin preached about the apostle Paul and he sed God sed—paul Paul, where art thou? Then Paul hollered out—here I am mister Martin and mother claped her hand on Pauls mouth and everybody laffed. well next thing, old man Raffbum sneezed so hard he blowed his teeth out and they hit on the seet and fell on the floar and aunt Clara snikered and jest thin I busted out laffing and I hollered O mother he cant eat no dinner becaus his teeth

has gone—I didnt think where I was. Mother said hem hem and looked wise and me and Paul got to roaring so hard mother had to take us out. Mother sed it is wrong to laff in church but I herd her and aunt Clara laffing about it out in the kitchen tonite when they told father.

12. Me and Skiney found a punkin rite in Lamferes garden today and we took it for a jack lantern. Paul sed to Miss Galiger—shes our hird woman—he sed he didnt like to have his name so much like Paulines becaus it sounded too much like soap and soapine. Miss Galliger laffed and told Miss Rider and Miss Rider told a newspaper man and he put it in the paper. Father sed the paper sed docter Brooks son was a very brite lad and he give Paul and nickle.

13. Mrs. Lamfere told mother today she missed one of her summer squashes out of her garden and she thought me or Paul took it becaus she seen the skin laying on our back steps. Mother sed she didnt think we was that kind of kids and she ast the fellers about it & Boney told her it was one his mother give to me and Skiney. We didnt tell him to say that but we didnt want to get him in trouble so we kep still. Well Miss Lamfere sed she thought it was queer where her squash went and mother sed yes she had the

same presentmunt. We had some fun with that jack lantern tonite. We rung old man lamferes door bell two or 3 times and then we run like the divel.

14. Old man Lamfere shot a cat this a m and it run under our barn to die. Father was mad and he told Lamfere he would have him arrested if he didnt get that cat out from under there as it would stink. Lamfere was mad but him and his man come over today and took up all the barn floar. Well it come six oclok and I herd him say, now i will be dumed if I will look any longer and then he put the floar down again. Then me and Skiney found the cat over in Stuarts yard where it had run out from under the other side and we took it to Lamfere and he sed if you was my boys i would make you look like a greese spot and he sed he would kill every dum cat in the neighborhud.

15. Ringling circkus is going to be in town next saterdy and me and granma is going and Paul is going to take his best girl. Father has got a new x ray that he can look rite through people with and he made me turn the crank so he could look through Pauline. One feller sed father didnt need no x ray to spot pocket books with.

16. Bob Boles got sent home from scool today

for spiting on the black board. He made 2 or 3 awful funny looking splatters and it made all the fellers laff. Circus tomorrow by gum.

17. Believe me we had a awful time at that circus today. Me and granma went and granma lost the tickets in the croud and a feller with a red cote ast her for her tickets and she sed she had lost them and the feller sed then you will have to get out. Granma sed she wouldnt do it becaus she paid for them and the feller sed that makes no diffrence madam—I advize you to hustel out. Granma fussed with her shawl a good while and it made the feller mad. Granma didnt have no more money so I cried. Well Paul had bad luck to. He took his girl and a feller with a camera met them before they got to their seats and showed them some pictures of peeples backs and he sed he was getting a culllection and wood like to take Paul and his girl for nothing. Paul said all rite and the feller said stand rite still until I tell you and he went around back of them with the camra and then he went off in the crowd and Paul and his girl stood there half an hour and didnt move and all the people kep laffing. Paul got awful mad when he ketched on. Docter Stuarts wife told father about it and father sed it was a peach of a joke and he ast Paul if he had a good time and Paul sed fine.

Father ast him if he got his picture took and he sed he didnt know what he ment.

18. Paul blowed the organ in church today and he let the wind go out when Miss Marvin was singing a soler and the organ gave a whoop and then grace gave a whoop and set rite down and put her hands over her face. Elder Martin spoke to Paul about it after church and Paul laffed so Martin told father and paul will get his trimins. Me and Shank Coe stuck pins in the chairs in s. s. today and dekon Shatuck set on one and then he got up and made a speash. He sed it was time the oldest members of the church was respecked and they ought to be pertecked. He sed kids parents ought to be told when they didnt behafe in the house of God. Mr. Hail told father and i will get licked the same time Paul does.

19. Me and Squash and Shank are going to have a circus down in coes hitchin sheds. we are going to have 3 rings and Boney is going to dive off a ladder. Dutch and Bean are going to perform on a trapeze and Bob Boles is going to ride the mule. Squashs mother has lost her best silver tray and she feels awful about it becaus it was give to her by a dead lady. Father was away today so me and paul didnt get licked.

Miss Galiger made a chockolet cake today and i stuck my finger in it and made a hole. Miss Galiger was mad and sed she was going to take it rite up stares and show it to mother. When she was going up the stares her toe sliped and she fell down and stuck her fase rite in the top of it and made the cake a funny shape. I laffed and laffed all day about it because she looked like a nigger with that frosting all over her fase. Mother sed when father come i would get mine.

20. Father come near forgetting to lick me and Paul today and i didnt want him to forget about Paul becaus he told that i was in the cookey jar. I thought if i told father he forgot it he would lick Paul and let me go, but he sad all rite sir, step rite in here and i will tan you for telling on your brother first and then i will see about that cake you spoilt. He done it with a razer strap. He claimed he rather be licked hissself then to lick me and i give him to understan l rather he would be. Yap got mad at Squash today and went and told his mother about that server we naled on the ruff. She cryed when he fetched it home becaus they was nale holes in it.

21. Mother went to a funeral today. Bean was there with his old lady and he told the kids tonite.

The undertaker was old man watkins. When Mr. Marten was praying old man watkins was leaning up againts the seller door. All to once the door flew open and down he went and it made a awful crash becaus he lit rite in some fruit cans and smashed some. Bean laffed rite out loud. Watkins caut his cote on a nale when he fell down and toar a big slit in it. He stayed down seller until a man went over and got him a new cote and a brush broom. When he come up he had a rag on his eye. When the funeral was over they took him home in one of the herses.

22. Miss Galiger got hert bad today. She was coming through the door one way and Paul was in the cuberd stealing some cookies for the fellers and he herd someone coming so he jumped up and run rite into Miss Galiger and they bumped their heads. It didnt hert Paul but Miss Galiger got a nice black spot on her hed. Yap got a dozen banans down to the store this afternon and had them charged to his mother and us fellers had a banquet over to our club house. We shined our shoes with the peals afterwerds and they looked swell till we walked in the dust and the dirt stuck rite on so we had to wash our feet in the rain barel. Mother used some of the water to boil potatoes in tonite.

23. We are going to have one circus tomorrow. Mrs. Sullivan is going to take her hole famly Skiney kicked his football rite thro Lamferes front winder this morning and Lamfere said he woodent get it back agen. I stay over to Skineys house tonite.

24. The wurst is yet to come. I went to Sulivens last nite. His mother made us go to bed erly becaus she was going to have compney. When the peeple come we got out of bed and set at the hed of the stares in our nite shirts to listen to the talk. It was all dark up there and they coodent see us. Well, Skiney and me got to rastling and i fell down stares and rolled rite out on the floor rite near some women. They hollered and' their fases got red and the men laffed and laffed and mister Sulivan laffed so he had to go out on the porsh and lean on the raling. I didn't feel like laffing you bet. Miss Sullivan made me dress and go home. Skiney run back and got in bed and told his mother i was walking in my sleep. This afternoon we had our circus but the fellers got mad becaus Boney fell off of the ladder and busted a hole in the side show tent, and they woodent go on with the circus. Miss Suliven pade 10c to get in and she got tired waiting for us to fite and went, then the fellers had a scrap to see who

wood get the 10c. Finely old man Coe come out and se he would take the 10c seeing it was his sheds and he sent the whole caboodel home. We have all cut shank and Boney out.

25. Elder Martin baptized a lot this a m Old mr. Carey was in the choir and he set rite near the baptistery and when they was singing he was looking up at the seeling and he forgot and backed off in. The sexten and another feller jumpel in and got their britches wet clear to their wastes. The sexton and elder Martin got old man Carey out before the other feller had got in so he got wet for nuthing. Well they took Mr. Carey down in the furnice room to dry and father got up and went down and give him some dope. The fellers got laffing about it in s s today and Mr. Shatick made another speech.

26. Me and Dutch has started a tooth pick factory down in our seller. We cut up pieces of wood and made tooth picks. Father got a bunch of us for 5c. They come put up in 5, 10 and 15c packages and we are going to have a new kind—sweet flowrett. We soke them in suger and water so they will taste sweet. Father sed the ones he bot tasted like soap.

27. Mother told father she knew what made our tooth picks taste like soap—because we made them out of her old wash board. Father haw-hawed and Paul sed we ought to make them out of segar boxes. We tried some but it tasted fearce. Paul had a bad time last nite. I herd him telling Barber about it. He sed he went home with his girl and it was all dark. She sed, come in Paul and set down and i will get a match and lite the gass. He went in and set down on the couch and his girls mother lay on it asleep and he set rite on top of her. She woke up and hollered murder and his girl was so skart she couldent lite the gass and the old woman kep hollering for perlise. Well finely his girl lit the gass and told her ma who it was. Paul sed the woman couldent git her breaf for quite a while she was so skart, then she went out. Paul told Barber as soon as she went out he turned out the gass agen

28. Shank coe sed he bought some lickrish yesterday and he sed when you spit it looks like tobacer juice and made a black spot on the walk. The fellers got some last nite and tried it and they spit on John Slocums winder and this a m it was all nasty. John tried to wash it off but it stuck so he had to scrape it with his knife. We

are going to have some fun spiting it. You can get a stick 2 foot long at Joe Barbers for 1 c

29. The fellers have been fixing up a telerfone at Shanks house. They made it out of a string and they is a tin can on both ends and you holler in the can and the feller on the other end can hear what you say. It runs way from the barn out to the shanty. Old man Leonerd told Mr. Coe we run it across his garden so we had to take it down and run it over the cloths line.

30. Mrs Coe got caut in our telerfone line today when she was hanging out clothes and broke the string. The fellers didnt know it was broke and they telerfoned in it and you could hear just as plane as you could before. The fellers over to the Palmer house hotel told mister coe we disturbed them telerfoning. Coe told us to quit that hollering in them things becaus we made the horses deaf.

2. They was a fire last nite down to Sumners and Paul was carrying out a tub full of dishes and somebody throwed a flatiron in it and broke all the dishes. Paul sed he saved about all they was saved. He carried out some pilows and half of a mattress and the stove covers and 2 dish pans and a chair. Old man Sumner throwed a clock and a spinning wheel and some dishes out

the winder. Mrs. Sumner got suffocated and they took her over to the next house and laid her in Jake Reeds flower bed and pored a pail of water on her. Jake Reed called them down for spoiling his flowers.

3. Paul got a new bul-pup day before yesterday. A man gave it to father. Last nite it disapeered and it didnt show up to date. Father sed he went by Browns meet market and sausages was hung in the winder and he was whisteling a tune and he sed every one of them sausages wiggeled so he told Paul he gessed Mr. Brown got that dog. We all thought it was a peachy joke but Paul was soar when we laffed. I never liked that dog. When I was putting on my shirt over my head that dog started to bite me. I run down stares and he nipped me 6 times between the pianer and the chifferneer. All the fellers stood on the porch tonite and sung that song—father wont by me a bowwow but Paul never went out doors to see them. We fellers are going to have a hoze compney and me and Shank bilt the hoze cart after scool today. we are going to put our garden hoze on it.

4. The fellers had a meeting tonite in our barn and we got up our fire compney. Bob Boles is chief; i am foreman of the alerts and Shank is

foreman of the hooks. The hook and ladder aint done yet. Squash took the door bell off his granmothers front door and fasened it on the hook and ladder.

5. We put mothers dinner bell on the alert cart today. We had a bad fire down to Shanks today. Dutch sed he see smoke coming out of the winder and he turned in the alarm. we hitched the hoze on where Coe washes his wagens and then we squirted all over Shanks house. We squirted it rite on the winder and Shanks granmother set there sowing and we didnt know the winder was up and we squirted all over her. Well mister Coe was in there smoking a segar and he come runing out and made Shank and Bone go in and go to bed and he sent all the other fellers home and I had to draw the hoze cart and hook home alone. Peeple laffed when i was going up the street. it made me sick.

6. Shank told me his granmother was soked yesterday. He sed he and bone went up to their room to go to bed and their dad come up and brought them a bag of candy and sed if they would keep quiet they needent go to bed. Today Coe took us all in his barn and give us 5c a peace and then he give us a old peace of hoze for the alerts. He told Button his mother in law

was so mad she hadnt spoke a word since we squirted her and then him and Button laffed. Button told mister Coe we busted the water faset and he sed thats all rite—i can stand 10 water fasets better than i can to hear the old lady gabber.

7. Father and mother and me and Pauline was over to Skineys house to dinner today. They had rice for dinner and when they passed it to father he sed rice always made him think of the wurst mistake he ever made in his life, and mother sed now Roy—tut tut—you know you was crazy to have me, and father sed yes—thats what everybody told him. Then they all laffed. Skiney and me laffed to but we didnt see nothing to laff at.

8. G mebbe i didnt get licked just now. Me and Boney sneaked a can of cherries down seller and we took them out behind the barn and us fellers ate all but a little and then we was awful sick and so we left the can there by the barn. well mother went out with the ash pan and she see a can with some cherries in it and she sed—that come out of my seller, sir. We let on we didnt know anything about it but she sed we did becaus they was chery juce on our fases and there was a big spot on Boneys blouce.

She told his mother and he got licked to. Boney was a darn fool to leave that can rite there in site.

9. Paul burnt a big hole in his cote tonite. He was smoking a segar and he see Elder Martin coming down the street and so he chucked it in his pocket. well Mr. Martin stopped and talked a while and Pauls cote tale ketched fire and blazed up and Paul see it and he sed—excuze me mister Martin, Im in a awful hurry. When he got home his cote was burnt way up to his arm. He was going to take his girl to church tonite but he couldent becaus his father made him go to bed. It was all the wurst because it was Archie Gibbsses new cote he had on.

(At this point the diary was dropped for some time. It begins again the first of the next month.)

1. Paul fell down the seller stares today with a hod of coal. I laffed so mother made me go down and pick it all up. When i got through my hands was all black and i wipid it on the toul. Tonite mother went in the wash room in the dark and wipid her fase on the toul and when she come out to supper father laffed and sed—Dell, you look like a railroader. Mother sed, well Roy this dress was clean this morning,

then father laffed again and sed he wasnt going to have his wife working in Lamferes coal dump. Mother went and looked in the glass and when she come back she sed she must have used the stove cloth in her hurey.

2. This morning father went to wipe on that toul and it was all black so he brout it out to mother and sed Dell is this the wagen cloth or a pen wiper. Then he sed this must be the toul you wiped your face off on last nite—you should always put water on your fase before you wipe just the way you teech the children. Thats once when i didnt get licked. I am going to stay all nite with Skiney agen tonite.

3. I guess they was a hot time last nite. Skiney said he always took a bath before he went to bed and he went down to the bath room and turned on the water and then he come back to get a toul. we got to fooling and rastling on the bed and he forgot all about the water. After a while we herd his mother yell Mike, Mike come quick, the house is full of water. Skineys father run up stares and he herd the water running in the bath tub and he opened the door and the water come out and run down the frunt stares. His father swum in and turned off the water. He didnt get very wet becaus he didnt have any-

thing on but his shirt. Then he come out and licked Skiney and sed he would see father in the morning. This morning i went over and the plaster was all off the dining room and they et in the kitchun. The carpets was all wet and it stunk feerful. Miss Suliven came over and told father and he called me in and ast me how it was and i told him. Miss Suliven sed Henry sed i wouldnt let him come down to turn off the water. Father sed that is all bosh becaus you know Henry can lick Keith—you wate and i will show him. Miss Sullivan sed Henry would have to stay in the house 3 days for lieing. Skiney sed i dasent come in his yard and i hollered back and told him he dasent come out of the house neether.

6. Me and Pauline roared at uncle Nell today. He tried to use our new telerfone. He took down the thing and sed hel-lo then he waited 10 minutes and sed oh-hel and then he waited some hore then he sed hel. We told father and father said Nel, how do you like our telerfone—handy thing isent it. Uncle Nel sed if i had it i would kick it off the wall. Then father sed, did you turn the crank? Uncle Nell sed—what crank? Then father roared and sed, Nel you are a hayseeder from way back and he showed him how to work it. Paul has got a new razer and

he says when he comes down in the morning his fase will be as fine as silk when he gets the fuz cut off.

7. Paul got up at 7 oclock this morning to try his new razer. 10 minutes after 7 he woke me up hollering—o the divel—there goes another pimpel. Then mother went in and sed, young man this is Gods day and i want no more of this langeuge. Paul sed, you git away, you made me slice off another pimpel. Mother sed, put down that razer to once. Paul sed, i only got one side shaved and I got to finish now so you git out. In a minute i herd him yell father, father come quick, i have cut a artry and i will blead to death. Father jumped out of bed and run down stares in his nite shirt into his office to get a bandage. He didnt know they was a lady there wating for him and he run rite in and hit his toe on a chair He yelled ouch-g-whiz and then he looked around and see the woman. He sed good morning, is it anything serious. She sed the baby is dieing and I want you to come as quick as i can. Father sed, well i am hureying all rite. Then he run out and sed, Dell for goodness sake why didnt you tell me she was in there. Mother sed, who in where? father pointed to the door and mother begun to laff and she kep it up so long she had to lay down. After a while

she begun to cry and laff too and father kep saying dell, Dell stop this and he sed she had histericks. After a while she got all rite and every little while all day she yould bust out laffing and father sed he was afrade she would have it agen. Paul cut a peace off his ear and father put a rag around his head and he didnt have to go to church. That woman came back this afternoon crying and sed doctor, my baby is dead and father sed, land sakes, I forgot all about it. He grabed his hat but she sed it was no use now. Mother sed it was all Pauls fault and the Lord would make him suffer for it.

8. I whiteled a stick with Pauls new razer today and it cut fine. I dropped it on the floar and nicked it then i put it away you bet. Paul is going to sing a soler up to the y m c a reception tomorrow nite and has been pracktising all day. Father told him he better go out in the horse stall so he wouldent bother the nabors. Paul went out to the barn and Hank (hes our colored man) told father he would have to turn the horses lose if Paul didnt get out of there, or they would kick the barn down. Father sed, is he singing? and Hank sed, i dont know what he calls it. Father laffed and sed well if the horses cant stand it I pity the y m c a tonite. He took Paul in his office and talked a long while

and when Paul come out he was mad and sed, i will sing now anyway. I guess I will go to that reseption myself.

9. Jest got home from the reseption with mother. Father was going but jest at the last minute he sed he had a call to make. Well they was a lot of folks there and when it come time for Paul to sing, mister Hall got up on a box and sed—ladys and gents, we will now listen to a soler by mister Paul Brooks, son of our honored and esteamed Pres. dr. Brooks. Everybody claped and Paul stood on a box near the pianer and bowed. Miss Lathum begun playing loud and kept rite on and somebody in the back sed, what is this a pianer soler. Then somebody sed Hall must of made a mistake. After a while she stoped and started agen. Paul kep standing there and i see she was skart and his nees wigeled. Finely he got down but he didnt sing. Some of the fellers claped and laffed and sed Miss Lathum is a fine player. When we got home father was in the office and he called me in and ast me how Paul sang and i sed he didnt sing and father sed he was glad he had sence enough not to try. Paul never come home til 12 oclock.

10. Paul sed Mr. Gibsen slung Bartel Mason over 3 seets by the seet of his pants in scool

today. Paul has got a putty blower and he sed he blowed it at red-head Bolger in scool and hit him on the noze and nocked his glasses off. Father come through the door jest then and sed, Paul I didnt know Jim Bolger wore glasses and Paul turned red and sed he gessed he didnt. Father sed, I thot not. Father sed, did you say Jim was in scool today and Paul sed yes. Then father sed, Jim is sick in bed today and i was down to see him. Then he sed, you better take a run aroun the block and see if it refreshes your memry any. I am going to get one of them putty shooters.

11. Paul told me he made a crack shot with his blower today. He sed he hit the hand on the klok in scool and turned it around a hole hour and they let scool out an hour erly. I sed, did it brake thro the glass on the clock and jest then he sed, come on Eldredge, lets play ball. Eldredge told me Paul is a born lyer and not to pay no attenshun to him.

(From here on the diary was not kept regularly. We have picked out a few of the more interesting parts.)

June 20. The fellers was out tonite and we went down to Joe Barbers and put gum in his chair and when he got his customers wated on he come

out and set down on it. Purty soon a customer come and Joe started to get up and his pants stuck to the chair. Then all the fellers sneaked. About 9 oclock father and me was up frunt of the eagle Hotel and they was a medisen man up there making a speech on a wagen. Finely he begun to do a trick and he got Ed Tailer on the wagen and put a red rag on his head. Father stood up on his toes so he could see. They was a old man back of him and he punched father and sed, do you think i can see thro you. Father sed, you ought to be able to for i have a pane in my back. Then the old man sed, why, dr. Brooks, i didnt know you, I havent seen you in 20 years. Then they shook hands and father told me to run home because he and dr. Somebody was going to take a walk.

June 22. I found a egg in Sulivens barn today and brought it home. Father sed it was rotten and I ast him if it was good for anything. He sed not to eat, but he herd Sam Jones was bying up rotten eggs for politicks if he dont get electktd and mebbe I could sell it to him.

June 30. Father sed he gessed he would start a electrick lite plant. He sed mother had got gass in her stomach and he has got electricktcy in his hair. He sed he bet he could give better satis-

facksun then the Norwich lite compney. Today mother ordered a doz. oranges and when the kid brot them they wasnt but 11. Mother sed they is only 11 here, where is the other one. The kid sed one of them was bad so he didnt think she would want it and he threw it away. Mother tel-erfoned to the store and they sed they sent 12 good ones. Mother looked at the kid and sed whats that bulgying your pocket? She looked and there was the other orange.

July 4. Us fellers have been saving up our money for a long time and we put it all together and bot a pile of fireworks. We put it on our big tin server and tonite we took it out on the frunt porsh. All the naburs was on their steps to see our fire works and it was jest crouded. Well Shank was to blame for it all because he set the server on the steps then he shook a roman candel over it. Then she went. Sky rockets shot rite on Bill Sulivens steps. well the whole thing went off to once. It made such a fire and noise everybody come runing and it blowed the raling off our steps. All the women run to the houses. when it got through shooting we come back and looked aroun to see if we could find something that hadnt shot off but we couldnt. All the fellers is mad at Shank and I have felt

sad all the evening. I wish i had my 10 dolers and Skiney sed he would give 5 if he had his too. 5. The paper sed today that we had a terrible exploshun and it sed I sed boo-hoo boo-hoo its all gone up to once. Its a big lie and I know who put that in the paper. It was Bill Suliven. You wait old Bill, we will spit lickerish all over your place tonite.

11. My s. s. teacher sed in s s today that the Lord give Moses 2 tablets. I ast father if Moses had dispepsha. Father sed he had acksmethemia recgstumuntz of the grunxiany (he told me how to spell all that)

4. The whole town is covered with them nasty mapel worms. Clarese Scudders little baby sister ate a lot of them and they sent for father Orey Lamfere put some in a paper bag and took them to scool and in scool she passed it aroun to some girls and they thought it was candy and put their hands in and squeezed the worms and green stuff come out of the insides of them all over their hands. They whooped so Prof. Gibsen fired them out of scool. One girl was sick and throwed up.

8. Miss D M Homes has offered \$5 to the kid that will pick the most of them kookoons and bring them down to her house. All them worms

fixed fuzzy stuff on their outsides and hooked onto the houses. Me and Boney coe is going into the contest and we picked a market basket full after scool. You have to be careful not to squeeze them or juce comes out. Father has been laffing at Hank Smith all day becaus Hank got squirted with a skunk last nite. He drove the horse for father to make a call last nite and while father was in the house. Hank see a cat in the road and he kep saying kitty kitty and it come rite up to the wagen and the next thing he knew it was a skunk. Hank went to the door and told father he gessed he would have to go home and father sed, for mercy sakes, Hank what has happened and he sed I gess that skunk has pepered me. Father says, well I should say yes. So hank drove home and father had to walk Hank buried his clothes out back of the barn and wore an old suit of fathers home. Father squirted some kind of dope all over the inside of his wagen becaus it stunk so.

11. Well of all the kookoons you ever see. Me and Boney has been all over town colleckting them. One man drove us off his place because we was standing in his flower bed picking kookoons off his porch. He swore a blue streak. We had a fite with a bunch of kids on Hayes street because they told us to keep off their

street. They was in the contest to and was afrade we would get more than they would. Skiney was helping us and we told him we would treet if we won so while we and Boney was chewing the rag with Web Stover becaus he told us to get off that street, Skiney sneeked on Webs back porch and stole a grape basket full of Webs kookoons. He beet it home the back way and when we got home he put them in our basket. We told Skiney we would buy him a soder water when we got our mon. We know we will win because we got over a bushel now. I heard Paul tell Chick Eldredge he had a bad time after church last nite. He took his girl to church and he had jest a penny and a dime in his pocket. He was going to put the penny in the colleckshun so he could treat his girl to soder after church but he made a mistake and put in the dime. Well after church he took his girl over to D. Millers for soder water and they was a lot of other fellers in there and they was a gying him becaus he had a girl. They ett their soder water and Paul reached in his pocket and handed the money to the man and the man called at him and sed, look here young feller you only give me a cent. Paul found out it was all he had so he had to tell the feller to have it charged to father. Then the fellers that was in there all laffed and sed,

say Brooks, we dont charge soder water in this here store and one feller sed why dont your girl pay for it. because its leap year. Paul ast mother for the 10 c today and mother sed thats jest what you get for being stingey with the Lord and you shouldnt be drinking soder water on the Lords day.

- 12. Me and Boney went down to Miss Homes house with our worms tonite after scool and Skinney went with us. Them Hayes street kids was there and Miss Homes was counting their worms on the back porch. We chuckeled becaus they only had 3 market baskets full and we had 2 bushels full. They got soar when they see what we had and Web Stover put his hand up to his noze and wigeled his fingers at us. Boney got back at him and put both his hands up to his noze and wigeled all his fingers to them kids. We herd them tell Miss Homes some mean kid stole one of their baskets full. I gess it is a purty good thing we took Skinney along with us becaus Miss Homes laid them Hayes street kidses kookoons in a pile back of her while she counted ours and Skiney sneaked aroun back of her and kep puting kookoons in our basket offen their pile and she counted them rite over again. I was skart when I see Skiney doing that becaus Miss Homes kep looking sideways, but Boney

kept winking his eye to Skiney then he would laff when Skiney chucked in a handful. Miss Homes sed, i gess I never will get to the end of this basketfull—i never see so many kookoons in my life, where did you boys get all these? I told Miss Homes we went all over town and Skiney sed quite a lot was give to us by friends and just then Boney busted out laffing and she looked over her glasses at him I was glad when she got done counting them and we laffed all the way home. We see a lot of kids going to her house with little grape baskits full and we laffed because we knew all the time we had moren they had. It is going to be in the Morning Sun tomorrow who wins.

13. wheeeeeeeee 5 plunks for Boney coe and Me. we won on them worms. It was in the Sun this morning as follows—Keith Brooks, sun or dr. L. J. Brooks and Carl Coe, sun of liveryman W. C. Coe brought Mrs Homes 47,396 coo-coons. Web Stover and them kids only had 7,988. We went rite down to her house after brekfust and ast her for the money. She give us 2.50 each. We met Skiney on the way home and he sed, come on treet. Boney sed I was the one that told him we would treet so I could pay for it. I told Boney he sed so to and he would have to pay 2 c towerds it. He sed he wouldnt

do it and I told him he was a cheet. well, he spits in my fase so I let a gob or 2 at him. Jest then a man come along and sed he would tell our fathers unless we cut that out. Skiney sed we would both have to treet or he would go and tell Miss Homes we had Webs worms. We didnt want her to know so we took him up to D. Millers and he ett a chockelet soder and Boney paid for it then he ett a strawbery one and I paid for it. Skiney sed he was sick but he would tell about them kookoons.

14. Father give me and Boney both 25c on acount of the kookoons. He sed it was werth it to him becaus we cleaned them offen his place. We went rite up to D. Millers and Boney ett 4 soders and 5c werth of taffey and I ett 3 soders and bought 30 sticks of that taffey you get 3 sticks for a c. Boney took his 2.50 to the bank but I am going to spend mine for curtins for our sideshow.

19. Paul and Chick Eldredge had a warm time this afternoon. They was at the creek and caught some snakes and lizerds. Paul brought hisen home in his pants pocket and performed with his snakes in front of the kitchen winder when mother was looking out. Mother yelled and yelled to him to put them nasty things down

so he put them back in his pants pocket. Jest then father came out to see why mother yelled so and them snakes made a hole in pauls pants pocket and slid rite down his leg. Paul grabbed his self on the leg and kept yelling for pop to come help becaus the snakes was inside his pants but father was laffing so he couldnt help, and bent up like a jackknife. Paul got them out of his stocking and mother told him to throw them away but he sneaked them up to his room and he told me he was going to put them in a cage and have a managery.

20. Paul gumped on me this morning and sed I stole his snakes. He sed he put them in his desk drawer when he went to bed last nite and this a m he couldnt find one of them but he sed I better not say anthing about it and mebbe they would turn up. All us kids are practicing for a show in our barn next Sat. I spent 1.98 for cloth to make curtins.

21. Mother says there is a turible smell in Pauls room and she cant find it. Paul sed he smelt it to but he cant find nothing. Mother says it is dead mice under the floar. Paul sed he would sleep on the ruff tonite on account of the stink.

23. Never agen will I have a show. I spent all my money and the kids all made fun of me

and the dum show fiseled. It would been good if Bob Boles didnt monkey with the curtin. We had a big croud, granma Brooks and Mrs. Suliven and 4 kids and uncle Joe was there and paid 3 pins each. Uncle Joe stayed 2 minutes and sed it was like a summer day in Afreca and he couldnt stand the heet. He went before the trouble started. Skiney did his trick o k cept he tore his tites in the seet on the trapeez. I was puting on my tites back of the curtin and had all my clothes off and Bob Boles caut his spenders on the outside of the curtin and the string busted and the curtin fell down. I felt wurst becaus Gertrude Lafum was there with 2 rich girls from N Y. Miss Suliven and granma covered up their fases. I kep hollering to the kids to put back that curtin and I squarted in the corner but them snots layed down on the hay and laffed. Miss Suliven got disgursted and took the kids and went home. Then they all went and Gertrudes face was red like beets. I felt red all over. When they all got out I swore at them kids, maybe I didnt, and I told them to git out and stay out so before they went they throwed my clothes down the hay hole into Dolleys stall. I dasent drop in front of her to get them so after a while I hooked them up the hole with a stick and nale I stayed in the barn till granma come after me.

She sed she was sorry but the old coot laffed behind my back

November. Uncle Nell fed Paulines pony last nite and it got his goat. He went in the stall and the poney raised on his hind feet and when he come down he stuck his foot in uncle Nells coat pocket and ripped the whole side off his coat. Uncle Nell ripped and snorted he was so mad. Yesterday was thanksgiving and we had the time of our life. We all went to Uncle Joes for dinner. They had a big turkey on the table and we all set down then uncle Joe sed, Roy, say the blessing. Father jest begun to pray when all of a sudden mother tipped rite over back and she kicked out her foot frunterds and hit the table a crack and knocked one leef rite up in the air. It tipped over a boul of gravey and if father hadnt quit praying it would have sloped in his lap. Father sed, Dell why cant you be a little considerate when prayer is being offered—that is sacreligus. Then they all died laffing becaus one leg of mothers chair had stuck down through the carpet and went rite through a not hole in the floar. Mother was skart so stiff she couldnt eat much dinner.

17. O dear, Shank died today. He had been sick for 3 weeks with amonia. Me and Dutch

went down to see him today and his granmother was crying and sed we never could see Walter alive agen, Dutch an me went in and looked at him but he was all cold and white and didnt move a bit. It made a big lump come in my throat and dutch sed it did in hisn too and the we both cried and cryed. I come rite home and told mother and we both cryed. Mother said it was nice that Walter was a good Christian boy and aksepted Jesus for his savier. His faverit verse was John 3—16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotin son that whosoever believeth on him might not perich but have everlasting life." All the boys excep Bob Boles and Bean Green believes that verse and I am glad I believe it.

20. Jiminey crickets, its all off with me. Mother says i was born to get in trouble. Me and skinney herd Paul and Elderedge say that the teacher in scool showed them how to mix gas and air and make a funny blue fire which is very hot. They see it done in scool, anyway Paul sed it was. Me and skinney thought we would try it so when father went to make his calls we borrowed fathers big air tank with atmizers on it and took it in my room. then we fixed the toob on the gas jet and run gas in the tank for a while. Then skinney hitched on the pump and

blowed air in and it opened up the scrue on top and lit the thing. It went fine for a minit—shot blue fire clear to the seeling. Paul says when skinney pulled the pump back up it sucked fire in anyway she went up. and everybody is glad that me and skinney didnt get killed. She went *ka-boooooooooom* like that and plaster begin falling on us and black smoke near choked us to death so we cralled out on the roof and wated to see what else would happen but it didnt go off agen. Nabors come runing out and doc Brown come running and says—you kids trying to blow up this naborhood or what—then mother come running up from below and we went in to see what happened. That big iron tank busted in 4 peces and knoked the plaster off and busted a window and some pictures and things. quite a few come up to see what the noise was. and doc Brown sed we are mity lucky we didnt wake up ded. father is away till friday so i dont know how it will come out yet. Paul and Eldrege keep slingin it into us and Paul says father will skin me alive.

THE MORAL

It would hardly be fitting to close a story of this kind without calling attention to its moral. We can best point it out by relating a little incident that occurred somewhat later in the life of the author.

We were holding a position as collector for a newspaper. One day we called at the home of a prominent lady to present a bill. The lady bade us wait upon the porch while she sought her purse upstairs. As we waited, we discovered that just back of the house was a beautiful rose garden and we spied two or three roses that we thought would just suit our best girl. We shot off the porch, plucked the roses, concealed them under our coat and took our place on the porch again just as the lady returned. We took the money, politely thanked her and made off up the street.

A gentleman stopped us on the corner nearby and while we spoke with him, we heard a lady's voice calling, and turning, we saw our lady standing upon the porch from whence I had just come, waving something frantically in the air and bidding us return. At the same instant instinct told us that our necktie, which was one of these patent hook-on affairs, was missing. At

the same moment it dawned upon us that it was the said necktie that the lady held in her hand. With cheeks the color of a beet we approached her.

"Young man," said she, "Is this *your* necktie?"

How could we deny it!

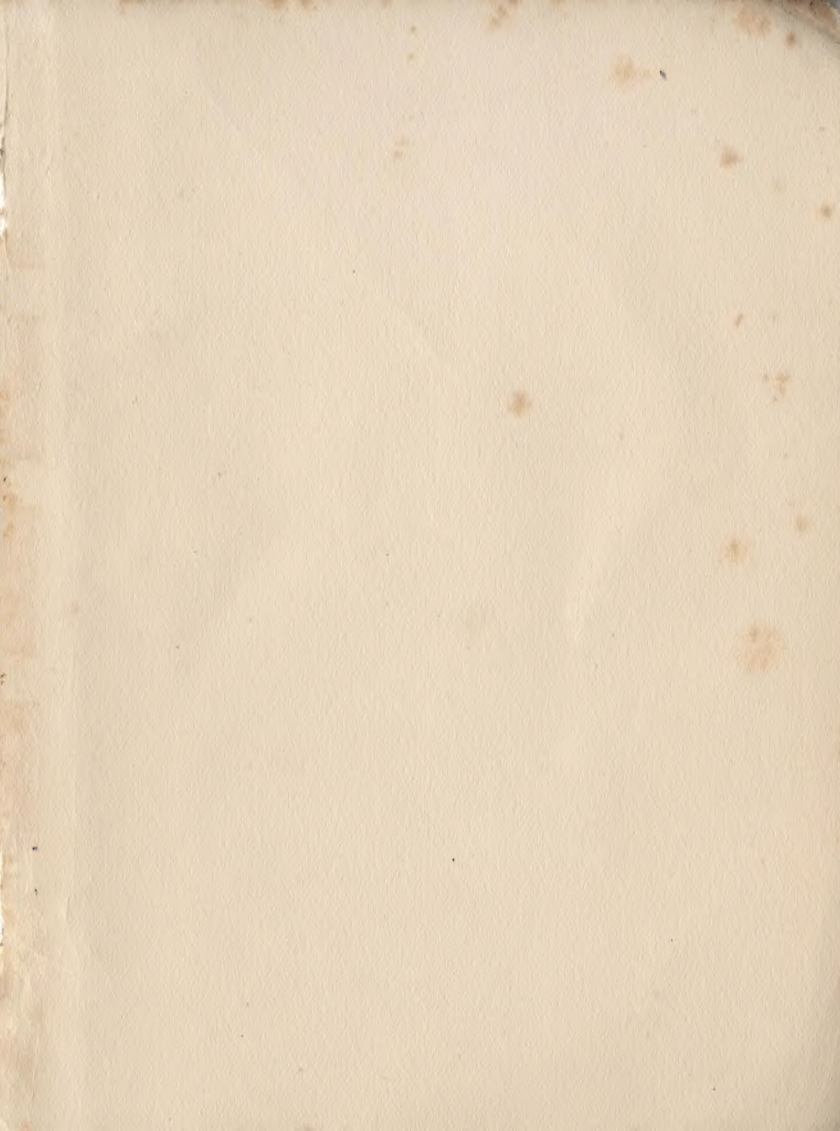
"I found it on my best rose bush," she roared, as she gave us a nasty look.

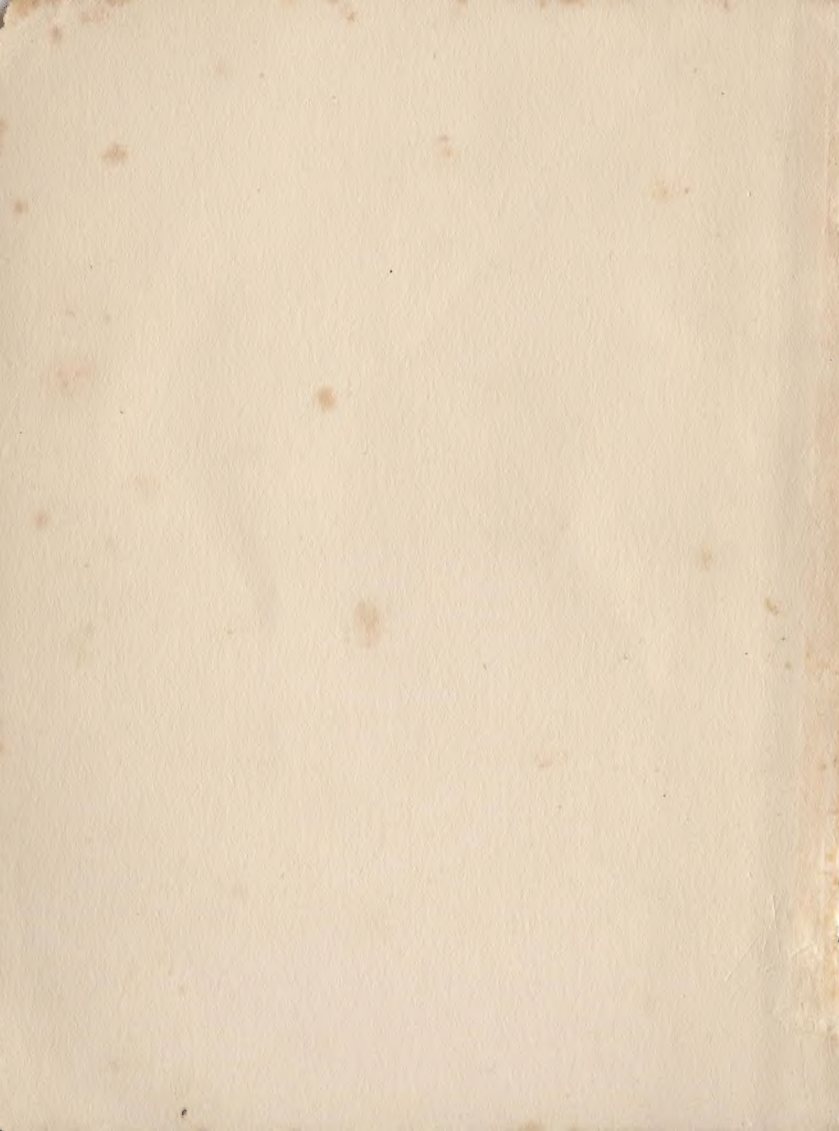
We never found out who told the newspaper proprietor, but we only know that that evening, the whole story came out in the paper, under the heading—

"BE SURE YOUR SINS WILL FIND YOU OUT."









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